(b) if so, what are the details of its set up and the modalities formulated to examine the border issue; and

(c) whether any deadline has been set to solve, the border problem between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K.K. TEWARI): (a) During the recent visit of the Prime Miniter to China, it was decided by India and China to set up a Joint Working Group on the boundary question.

(b) The Group will be headed on the Indian side by the Foreign Secretary, and on the Chinese side by the Vice Foreign Minister. It will address the question of an overall boundary settlement as well as ensure the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

(c) The boundary question is a complex one which will require detailed negotitations. A time-limit cannot arbitrarily be set for the completion of these negotitations.

Enhancing the Capacity of Air Services

136. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a major expansion plan to enhance the capacity of the Air services in the country;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposed plan; and

(c) what is the likely total cost of expenditure involved and what are the total number of air buses or aeroplanes required to implement the expansion plan?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In so far as Indian Airlines is concerned, it has already placed an order for 19 Airbus A320 aircraft at a project cost of Rs. 1238.37 crores for deliveries during 1989-90. Indian Airlines has also placed a letter of Intent for acquisition of 12 additional A 320 aircraft which it proposes to procure.

Air-India has also drawn up a detailed integrated plan upto 1995-96 which is under consideration of the Board of Air-India. The Sub-Committee of the Board of Air-India has evaluated the various aircrafts available (both medium and long range) which will meet the traffic growth upto mid-Nineties. The total number of aircraft, according to this study, which Air-India would need is placed at 12 and the total investment is estimated to be in the region of US dollars 1.5 billion.

Gap between Demand and Supply of Air Services

137. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is in a mess due to delay in flight schedule;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have allowed capacity to raise 4% per year; while the demand is rising 12% per year;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not meeting the demand of the country; and

(d) what steps are being considered/taken by government to meet the demand during 1989; and also to ensure functional operations of flight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission has imposed a ceiling of 8% on the growth of Indian Airlines' capacity during the Seventh Plan period. Attempts are being made to relax the ceiling. Apart from the ceiling, Indian Airlines suffered from capacity shortage due to a number of accidents and also late arrival of leased aircarft, than planned.

(d) Indian Airlines has inducted a number of aircraft on lease and from April, 1989 onwards, the 19 Airbus A 320 aircraft will be inducted into its fleet in a phased manner.

Funds for Development of Hyderabad Railway Station

138. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY :

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :

Will the Minsiter of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for improving the Hyderabad and other Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh as Model Stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that no amount has been sanctioned for the development of Hyderabad railway station though it has been selected as a Model Station under the Model Station Scheme;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what way the time lost would be made up in improving the facilities at the Hyderabad railway station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupati and Waltair railway stations in Andhra Pradesh have been selected to be developed as Model Stations. Work at all the stations except at Hyderabad has commenced.

(b) to (d) The work at Hyderabad station is proposed to be taken up in phases. In phase-I, works costing Rs. 1.50 crores have been proposed and will be started in 1989-90.

Membership of Commonwealth to Pakistan

139. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minsiter of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had approached India to help her joining the Commonwealth;

(b) whether Pakistan has been provided Membership of the Commonwealth; if not, by when she is likely to achieve such membership; and

(c) to what extent Pakistan's joining Commonwealth is likely to help in improving relations with Pakistan by the Commonwealth countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Without making a formal proposal, from time to time Pakistan has been expressing interest in rejoining the Commonwealth.

(b) Pakistan is not a member of the Commonwealth. There are no clear indications at present as to when this will be possible.

(c) This remains to be seen.

Delay in Flights of IA during the Last Six Months

140. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines have not been able to maintain their schedules for the past 6 months;

(b) if so, what has been the averages of delayed flights during the last six months, as compared to the same period in 1987-88; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the punctuality of departures of various flights by the Indian Airlines?